

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted responsive to the Official Office Action mailed July 18, 2003 in which the drawings were objected to, claims 1, 2 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102 and claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 103. Claims 5 and 6 were indicated as allowable and claim 10 - 17 were allowed.

The specification has been amended to provide a basis for claiming the terms used in the specification, and it is believed that the drawings do not need to be amended as all material included in the claims has a basis in the specification and drawings.

Claims 1, 2 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Good et al. The Good et al. patent discloses a device for guiding and forcing an electronic book into engagement with a connector to connect the connector to the electronic book and to support the electronic book during and after insertion of the electronic book. Good et al also discloses a means for disengaging the electronic book from the connector for removal. However, the Good et al patent does not anticipate the rejected claims.

The attempt to construe claim 1 of the patent application to cover the prior art is a misplaced effort, if the claim is not read and applied to the prior art in the claims entire form, including all adjectives and modifying phrases.

The Examiner has identified item 54 of Good et al. as a frame. The frame 54 identified by Examiner is a frame but is not "fixedly disposed relative to said electronic circuit card support. In fact, the frame 54 is moveable by hand and by the lever of the Good et al. patent.

Accordingly, all elements of the claim are not found in a single prior art reference and therefore, the 35 USC 102(e) rejection of the claim 1 as anticipated by the Good et al. reference cannot stand and must fail.

The Examiner has identified item 50 of Good et al. as a moveable member carrying a spring 106 and an engaging member 94. The item 50 is an electronic book and is not constrained during the insertion into engagement with the connector on the frame.

Further, item 50 of Good et al. does not carry a biasing spring which biases the engaging member toward the electronic circuit card support. The only spring in Good et al biases the lever 50 of Good et al. from the position in Fig. 2 of Good et al. counter clockwise about pivot pin 74 to a position about 90 degrees from the position portrayed. This direction of movement and biasing cannot be considered "... toward the electronic card support"

Accordingly, all elements of the claim are not found in a single prior art reference and therefore, the 35 USC 102(e) rejection of the claim 1 as anticipated by the Good et al. reference cannot stand and must fail.

The failure to consider the modifying language that modifies the nouns of the claim reduces the examination process to one of merely finding unrelated devices that do not function as claimed and applying them to the claims as an anticipation. The modifying language which is accorded no consideration by Examiner is language intentionally included in the claims to make the claimed invention an operative device and more than a collection of unrelated parts. Examiner is respectfully requested to consider all the language which modifies the nouns in the claim and accord the language a meaning consistent with its common and customary usage.

Claims 2 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) along with claim 1. As claims 2 and 7-9 are all dependent upon claim 1 and claim 1 is clearly allowable over Good et al., claims 2 and 7-9 are likewise allowable.

Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Good et al in view of Kaiser et al. Claims 3-4 are allowable because they both depend upon claim 2 which is, in turn, dependent upon claim 1. Claim 1 being allowable over Good et al., claims 2, 3 and 4 are likewise allowable.

Claims 5 and 6 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 3 and 4 are clearly allowable due to the allowability of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4 as discussed above. There appears to be no need to present claims 5 and 6 in rewritten form at this time in the prosecution and Applicants request the claims be allowed along with claims 1-4.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Good et al. Claim 7 is a dependent claim dependent upon claim 1 and is therefore allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Good et al. Claim 8 is a dependent claim dependent upon claim 1 and is therefore allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Good et al. Claim 9 is a dependent claim dependent upon claim 8 and is therefore allowable for the same reasons that claim 8 is allowable. Additionally, the "engaging member 94" identified by Examiner does not exert a force through the engaging member 94 in excess of the force exerted on the connector. The member 94 is a release leg that holds the lever against unwanted movement after the connection

of the connector and the circuit board. The release leg counteracts the bias of the spring 106 attempting to move the lever counterclockwise. If the release leg is unlatched, the lever 78 will rotate counter-clockwise about pin 74 until the surface 85 engages the flange 82; and, absent any action to rotate the lever 78 any further, the lever will come to a rest and remain in that state. Clearly, the frictional engagement forces between connectors 58 and 118 will exceed the force of the spring 106, not the contrary.

Claim 9 is accordingly allowable over Good et al. on its own terms and should be considered allowable

Applicants note with approval the allowance of claims 10-17.

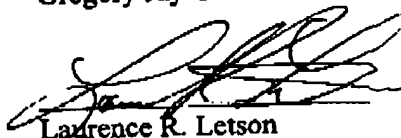
Applicants request the reconsideration, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 through 9 and the continued status of claims 10-17 as allowed.

Should Examiner find any remaining minor matters that can be advantageously disposed of by a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorney, Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' Attorney by telephone at the number below.

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
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